

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acids 1 to 133 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acids 2 to 133 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (c) a nucleotide encoding amino acids 88 to 108 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (d) a nucleotide encoding amino acids 108 to 120 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (e) a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to a nucleotide sequence encoding the galectin 11 polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 209053;
- (f) a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acids 2 to 133 of SEQ ID NO:2, except for at least one conservative amino acid substitution; and
- (g) the complement of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f).

2. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence is (a) or a complementary sequence thereto.

3. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 2 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes amino acids 1 to 133 of SEQ ID NO:2.

4. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence is (b) or a complementary sequence thereto.

5. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 4 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes amino acids 2 to 133 of SEQ ID NO:2.

6. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence is (c) or a complementary sequence thereto.

7. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence is (d) or a complementary sequence thereto.

8. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 2 wherein said nucleotide sequence is (e) or a complementary sequence thereto.

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9. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 8 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes the galactin 11 polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 209053.

10. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence is (f) or a complementary sequence thereto.

11. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

12. A method of making a recombinant vector comprising inserting the isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 into a vector.

13. A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 1.

14. A genetically engineered host comprising the polynucleotide of claim 1.

15. A method for producing a galectin 11 polypeptide, comprising culturing the genetically engineered host cell of claim 14 under conditions suitable to produce the polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

16. An isolated galectin 11 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 133 of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to amino acids 2 to 133 of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) amino acids 88 to 108 of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) amino acids 108 to 120 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(d) an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the galectin 11 polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 209053.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 16, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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18. An isolated antibody that binds specifically to a galectin 11 polypeptide of claim 16.

19. A method of detecting a galectin 11 polypeptide in a sample, comprising:

a) contacting said sample with an antibody according to claim 18, under conditions such that immunocomplexes form, and

b) detecting the presence of said antibody bound to said polypeptide.

20. A method of treatment of a cell growth disorder in a mammal, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 16 to said mammal.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said disorder is selected from the group consisting of cancer, autoimmune diseases, inflammatory diseases, asthma, and allergic diseases.

22. A method of diagnosing cell growth or differentiation disorders in a mammal comprising measuring galectin 11 gene expression in a patient sample.

23. A method of regulating cell growth or differentiation in a mammal, comprising administering a galectin 11 polypeptide of claim 16 to the mammal in an amount sufficient to stimulate cell growth or differentiation.

24. A method of regulating cell growth or differentiation in a mammal, comprising administering a galectin 11 polypeptide of claim 16 to the mammal in an amount sufficient to suppress cell growth or differentiation.

25. A method of regulating cell growth or differentiation in a mammal, comprising administering a galectin 11 polynucleotide of claim 1 to the mammal in an amount sufficient to stimulate cell growth or differentiation.

26. A method of regulating cell growth or differentiation in a mammal, comprising administering a galectin 11 polynucleotide of claim 1 to the mammal in an amount sufficient to suppress cell growth or differentiation.

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27. A method for treating, preventing, or ameliorating a medical condition which comprises administering to a mammal subject a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 16.

28. A method for treating, preventing, or ameliorating a medical condition which comprises administering to a mammal subject a therapeutically effective amount of the polynucleotide of claim 1.

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